

GOVERNMENT

Public Release, Fall 2004





Sample A

The mass media is sometimes referred to as "the fourth branch of the government" because it

- A endorses all governmental policies
- **B** influences public opinion
- C is a powerful federal agency
- **D** is paid for with federal taxes

Sample B

On January 1, 1999, the euro became the common currency for eleven European countries.

The adoption of the euro created a region based on a common

- **F** political ideology
- **G** defense strategy
- H economic interest
- I cultural characteristic





Arizona, California, and Colorado all claim the right to use the water from the Colorado River for their water needs.

The <u>most</u> effective way to resolve the water rights dispute would be for

- **A** the three states to sign a treaty with Mexico
- **B** the three states to create a regional agreement
- C each state to build dams on its portion of the river
- D each state to take as much water from the river as possible
- Which of these would most likely be indicted by a Maryland grand jury?
 - F a professional football player refusing to honor his contract
 - G a neighbor having a property dispute with another homeowner
 - H a car owner testifying about the theft of her car
 - J a person videotaped robbing a state bank

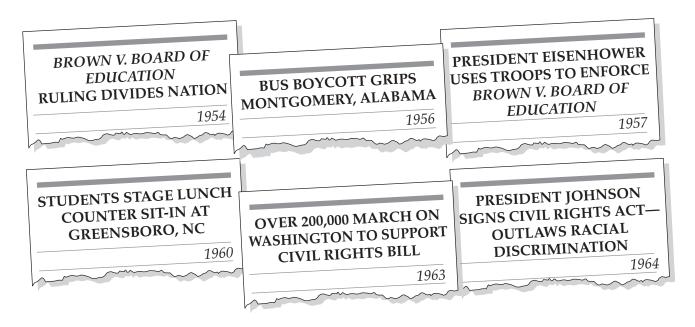
In 1990 Congress passed a law that gave Native Americans control over Native American artifacts found on federal land.

What was a purpose of this law?

- A to protect the culture of Native Americans
- **B** to fund scholarships for Native American students
- C to give states control over Native American affairs
- D to encourage business ownership by Native Americans



HEADLINES DURING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT 1954–1964



All of the events described in the headlines above address

- F racial segregation
- **G** educational access
- H unemployment issues
- J gender discrimination





Read the excerpt below.

BCR

"[neither] students or teachers shed their constitutional rights of freedom of speech or expression at the school house gate."

> —Tinker v. Des Moines School District

- Explain how the point of view expressed in the excerpt above could conflict with the functioning of a school.
- Do you agree or disagree with the position taken in this excerpt? Explain.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

During wartime, the writ of habeas corpus can be suspended in some areas allowing the arrest and holding of persons without charging them with a specific crime.

Based on this event, which of these conclusions is accurate?

- F The President lacks significant power during times of war.
- G The military must provide constitutional protections.
- H Citizens may lose some civil rights during emergencies.
- J The Supreme Court must rule on presidential actions.
- **7** Some groups are lobbying to permit citizens to register and vote on election day.

Which of these is an argument against such a measure?

- A Citizens lack the time to register to vote.
- **B** Present law allows voters to vote in any precinct.
- C Officials cannot quickly verify a voter's identity.
- D Transportation is available to polling places.



- Which of these persons would the United States government count as unemployed?
 - F a photographer who is her own boss
 - **G** a waiter who earns most of his money from tips
 - H a person who is retired
 - J an accountant who quits her job to look for other work
- **9** Read the excerpt below.

"If a foreign country can supply us with a [product] cheaper than we ourselves can make it, better buy it [from] them..."

—Adam Smith, The Wealth of Nations, 1776

Based on the excerpt, which of these government actions would the author most likely support?

- A raising taxes on imported goods
- **B** entering into free trade agreements
- C increasing wages paid to workers
- D passing strict regulations on businesses

10 BCR The population of Maryland's state bird, the Baltimore oriole, has decreased due to the destruction of its habitat.

- Describe some ways the Maryland government can help preserve the species.
- Which way do you think will be most effective? Explain your choice.
- Include details and examples in your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

The Sixth Amendment allows the accused the "assistance of counsel."

Which of these Supreme Court decisions extended the protections of this amendment?

- A Marbury v. Madison
- **B** Plessy v. Ferguson
- C Gideon v. Wainwright
- **D** Tinker v. Des Moines School Board





Which of these activities is <u>most</u> likely performed by political parties?

- F holding general elections
- G raising campaign money
- H designating voting precincts
- J counting absentee ballots

The United States protects its national security most directly by

- A passing environmental laws
- **B** entering into military alliances
- C providing low interest loans to poor nations
- D signing free trade agreements with bordering nations

- Which of these is most often encouraged by the government in a command economy?
 - F national production goals
 - G inherited occupational roles
 - H private ownership of property
 - J competition between businesses

15 BCR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)—federal agency that requires businesses to make workplaces safe for employees and to ensure that employees follow safety guidelines.

- Describe advantages and disadvantages of OSHA regulations.
- Should the federal government be involved in regulating workers' safety? Why or why not?
- Include details and examples to support your response.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



Which of these is <u>most</u> associated with an authoritarian government?

- **F** The legislative process is slow.
- **G** Freedom of expression is valued.
- H Government leaders have absolute power.
- J Elections for government offices are conducted fairly.

Which of these is an example of an economic sanction?

- A providing poor countries with humanitarian aid
- **B** creating trade alliances with bordering countries
- C refusing to meet with a diplomatic representative of a dictatorship
- D ending trade with a country that has a poor human rights record

Which of these officials is responsible for making laws?

- **F** a federal judge
- **G** the governor of a state
- H a United States senator
- J the Secretary of Defense

Which of these describes the main purpose of an interest group?

- **A** to influence government officials on specific issues
- **B** to form legislative committees that study public policy
- C to regulate the economy by setting federal lending rates
- D to select cases for hearing in appeals courts

Which of these sources would be <u>most</u> reliable for determining interstate migration patterns?

- F public school records
- **G** voter registration cards
- H property tax assessments
- J government census counts





Read the quote below.

BCR

Some lawmakers wish to censor music lyrics that encourage violence and destructive behavior.

- Explain why some lawmakers would want to censor music.
- Based on what you know about the Bill of Rights, do you believe this type of censorship is constitutional? Explain why or why not.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

- The United States most likely joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to
 - F provide medical care to developing nations
 - G increase economic stability in other nations
 - H create a military alliance with member nations
 - J establish a single currency among member nations

Which of these is a purpose of Social Security?

- A to provide income for retirees
- **B** to regulate the health care industry
- C to give relocation assistance to immigrants
- D to encourage taxpayer contributions to charities
- The right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure is an example of
 - F delegated power
 - **G** judicial review
 - H general welfare
 - J limited government





25 Study the political cartoon below.



Reprinted with special Permission of King Features Syndicate.

The cartoon suggests that some citizens

- A believe that the justice system is unworkable
- B are unwilling to break the law
- C believe that the right to a trial by jury is unnecessary
- D are unwilling to accept their responsibilities





Legislation promoting immigration would most likely cause

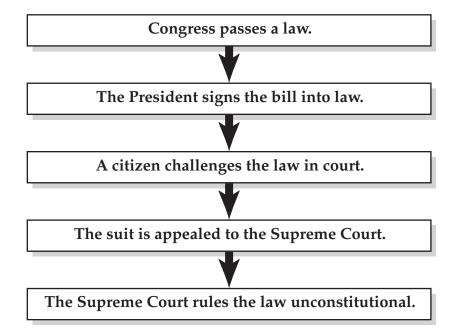
- **F** a decrease in economic activity
- **G** an increase in cultural diversity
- H a decrease in population growth
- J an increase in available housing
- Which of these is most likely a reason the federal government requires permits for utility companies to release pollutants into the air?
 - A to give tax breaks to utilities
 - B to increase investments in utilities
 - C to set rates charged by utilities
 - D to limit emissions produced by utilities





Look at the chart below.

ECR



- Use the flow chart above to identify an example of the principle of checks and balances.
- Describe advantages and disadvantages of checks and balances in the United States government.
- Do the advantages of the use of checks and balances outweigh the disadvantages? Explain your answer.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.





With which of these government actions is the Consumer Price Index (CPI) most associated?

- A imposing economic sanctions
- B reducing unemployment
- C measuring the rate of inflation
- D offering federal business loans

Which of these government actions is most associated with due process of law?

- F creating affirmative action programs
- **G** informing the accused of their rights
- H maintaining order during times of crisis
- J establishing guidelines for workplace safety



Which of these is a responsibility of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)?

- A inspecting and improving new medications
- **B** enforcing state and local environmental regulations
- C resolving disputes between labor and management
- D encouraging fairness in advertising and marketing

Which of these statements about the United Nations (UN) is true?

- F Its membership rules exclude poor nations.
- **G** Its policies discourage international cooperation.
- H Its councils elect leaders for many nations.
- J Its goals include international stability.



No test material on this page

Session 2



- Which of these public agencies usually decides local land-use issues?
 - A zoning board
 - **B** treasurer's office
 - C police department
 - D transportation department
- Which of these would most likely result if Congress increased the minimum wage?
 - F States would receive less tax revenue.
 - **G** Some companies would raise the price of products.
 - H Interest rates would be lowered to encourage spending.
 - J Some cities would raise property taxes on homes.

- Which of these <u>best</u> describes an effect of the Supreme Court decision in *Marbury v. Madison*?
 - **A** It gave the President veto power over Congress.
 - **B** It divided the government into three separate branches.
 - C It established the power to void a congressional law.
 - D It made state governments question federal power.
- What is the opportunity cost for state governments that spend state money during natural disasters?
 - F Main highways between states may be blocked.
 - **G** Prices for snow removal equipment may increase.
 - H Other services offered by the states may have to be cut.
 - J State governments may receive additional highway funds.



Read the news article excerpt below.

President Clinton signed a \$435 million foreign aid bill to relieve the debts of the world's poorest countries. Clinton said of the bill, "It will be good for our economy . . . [and] good for our security . . . [and it] is simply the right thing to do."

- Explain ways our foreign aid to other countries has benefited the United States.
- Do you think the benefits of foreign aid are worth the cost? Explain why or why not.
- Include details and examples to support your response.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

Which of these terms is used to describe a party who files a civil lawsuit?

F prosecutor

G defendant

H plaintiff

J mediator



39 Study the political cartoon and definitions below.



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Purveyor—supplier

Stronghold and Bulwark—protector

Which of these would the man portrayed in the cartoon most likely oppose?

- A government grants to the media
- B government censorship of the media
- C government licensing of broadcasting stations
- D government advertising on broadcasting stations



40 Which of these is an example of government funding based on population?

- F City councils award contracts to waste management companies.
- **G** The federal government gives grant money for environmental clean up.
- H School districts receive money from the state for each student enrolled.
- J A state approves placing stoplights at busy intersections.

Which of these is the <u>most</u> effective way for a state government to reduce pollution in a river?

- A limit the number of fish that can be taken from the river each day
- B encourage volunteers to pick up trash in the most polluted areas of the river
- C offer tax breaks to industries that decrease the amount of pollutants released into the river
- D sell land along the banks of the river owned by the state government to businesses and individuals

A toy company is moving its main production plant to a Maryland county.

Which of these would be the <u>most likely</u> effect on the county?

- F an increase in the number of elderly residents
- **G** an increase in the need for government services
- **H** a decline in job opportunities
- I a decline in school enrollment



43 BCR

Read the news article excerpt below.

"Residents in southwestern Allegany County wanted their area to become part of neighboring Garrett County. Under the state constitution, the Maryland legislature must pass a law before a county's borders can be changed...."

—from an article in *Sunpapers*, 12/2/98

- Describe what actions these Allegany residents could take to influence the government on this issue.
- Which of these actions would be most effective? Explain why.
- Include details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

- Which of these statements about presidential executive orders is true?
 - F They are proposed by legislators.
 - G They must be approved by voters.
 - H They have the force of federal law.
 - J They can be vetoed by state governors.



Directions Read the news article excerpt below. Then answer Numbers 45 and 46.

The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development awarded up to \$1.1 million to a private consulting firm. This firm will help small and minority businesses adopt technology to ensure their success.

- The excerpt is an example of government
 - A promoting equality
 - **B** controlling business
 - C increasing the size of the bureaucracy
 - **D** limiting economic growth

- The benefits of the program in the excerpt are expected to outweigh the costs because
 - F large businesses support technology
 - **G** this type of business is an important part of the state economy
 - H leaders of this department want to run for political office
 - J private citizens will donate money



- Which of these actions is least likely to involve cooperation between neighboring state governments?
 - A planning railroad routes
 - **B** controlling agricultural pests
 - C decreasing pollution of major rivers
 - D reducing class size in primary schools
- Which of these is a purpose of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)?
 - F to create a common currency among member nations
 - **G** to forgive the international debt of member nations
 - H to eliminate most tariffs among member nations
 - J to provide relief for refugees of war in member nations

BCR

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT INCREASES ENFORCEMENT OF LEAD PAINT REMOVAL IN APARTMENT BUILDINGS

- Is the action described in the headline an appropriate role for the state government? Explain why or why not.
- Should the government provide funds to the apartment owners to remove the lead? Explain why or why not.
- Use details and examples to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

- Which of these is an advantage of a representative democracy?
 - **F** Political parties have similar platforms.
 - **G** Citizens are able to vote on all issues.
 - H Government agencies make decisions quickly.
 - J Legislators are elected by the people.



irections

Read the excerpts below. Then answer Numbers 51 and 52.

Article 1

"That all government of right originates from the people; . . . they have . . . the right to alter, reform, or abolish their form of Government. . . . "

Article 24

"That no man ought to be taken or imprisoned . . . but by the judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land."

—Maryland Declaration of Rights

- Which of these constitutional principles is described in Article 1 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights?
 - **A** The people should have equal protection under the law.
 - **B** State governments and the federal government share powers.
 - C The people in a democratic society give their consent to be governed.
 - D Each branch of the government has powers over the other branches.

- Which of these constitutional rights is described in Article 24?
 - F the right to bear arms
 - **G** the right to due process
 - H the right to freedom of speech
 - J the right to peaceably assemble



Maryland has a budget surplus and needs to decide what to do with the extra money.

Which of these options would the state government <u>least likely</u> choose?

- **A** give the surplus to the federal government
- B spend the surplus on state programs
- **C** save the surplus for future needs
- D give the surplus back in a tax refund

Which of these is a function of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)?

- F to advertise programs aired on the radio
- **G** to inform the public on current events
- H to raise money for government projects
- J to regulate the broadcasting of information

Which of these is a responsibility of the Maryland General Assembly?

- A approving the annual state budget
- **B** supervising the Maryland State Police
- C reviewing criminal appeals
- D vetoing unpopular laws





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